

IN THE CLAIMS:

The text of all pending claims, (including withdrawn claims) is set forth below. Cancelled and not entered claims are indicated with claim number and status only. The claims as listed below show added text with underlining and deleted text with ~~strikethrough~~. The status of each claim is indicated with one of (original), (currently amended), (cancelled), (withdrawn), (new), (previously presented), or (not entered).

Please AMEND claims 1, 2, 15 and 16, without prejudice or disclaimer in accordance with the following:

1. (currently amended) An image processing apparatus for subjecting a radiation image to an image processing to image a target by using a photography device, comprising:

a data obtaining section to obtain the radiation image, and to ~~obtain information regarding~~identify the photography device used to obtain the radiation image and a ~~part of the target~~ from where the radiation image was obtained;

an image processing condition storing section to store ~~as an image processing condition~~conditions the information regarding the that correspond respectively to various photography devicedevices and the ~~part of the target~~targets; and

an image processing section to read from said image processing condition storing section the image processing condition that corresponds to the photography device used to obtain the radiation image and the target from where the radiation image was obtained and, and to subject the radiation image obtained by said data obtaining section to the image processing in accordance with the image processing condition read by the image processing section.

2. (currently amended) An image processing apparatus for subjecting a medical image to an image processing by using a photography device, comprising:

a data obtaining section to obtain the medical image, and to ~~obtain a type of~~identify the photography device and a ~~photography condition when~~conditions used to obtain the medical image ~~is obtained~~;

an image processing condition storing section to store ~~an image processing condition, when the medical image is subjected to the image processing, in accordance with the type of the~~conditions that correspond respectively to various photography devicedevices and the ~~photography condition when the medical image is obtained~~conditions; and

an image processing section to read from said image processing condition storing

section the image processing condition corresponding to the ~~same type of the~~ photography device and ~~the same photography condition as the type of the photography device and the photography condition obtained by said data obtaining section~~conditions used to obtain the medical image, and to subject the medical image obtained by said data obtaining section to the image processing in accordance with the image processing condition read by the image processing section.

3. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The image processing apparatus according to claim 2, wherein said image processing section subjects the medical image obtained by said data obtaining section to at least a gradation conversion processing and a frequency emphasis processing, and

said image processing condition storing section stores a frequency emphasis function indicating a degree of frequency emphasis in which a gradation conversion function and an average density around respective points of the medical image are used as variables in accordance with the type of the photography device and the photography condition.

4. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The image processing apparatus according to claim 3, wherein, before the gradation conversion processing, said image processing section subjects the medical image, obtained by said data obtaining section, to a luminance correction processing using a dynamic range compression function in which the average density around the respective points of the medical image is used as the variable.

5. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The image processing apparatus according to claim 2, further comprising:

an image processing condition operating section to add, to change, and to delete said image processing condition in response to an operation.

6. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The image processing apparatus according to claim 2, further comprising:

an image display section to display the medical image subjected to the image processing by said image processing section.

7. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The image processing apparatus according to claim 6, further comprising:

an interested area designating section to designate an area of interest on the medical image displayed in said image display section in response to an operation,
wherein said image display section lowers a luminance of an area, excluding the area of interest designated by said interested area designating section, to display the medical image.

8. (previously amended) The image processing apparatus according to claim 7, wherein said interested area designating section designates the area of interest on the medical image displayed in said image display section and designates a coefficient indicating a degree of drop of the luminance of the area, excluding the area of interest, in response to the operation, and

said image display section lowers the luminance of the area, excluding the area of interest designated by said interested area designating section, down to a luminance in accordance with the coefficient designated by said interested area designating section to display the medical image.

9. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The image processing apparatus according to claim 7, further comprising:

a part recognizing section to recognize positions of a plurality of parts appearing in the medical image,

wherein said image processing section subjects the area of interest, designated by said interested area designating section, to the image processing in accordance with a respective one of the plurality of parts appearing in the area of interest, and being among the plurality of parts having positions thereof which are recognized by said part recognizing section.

10. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The image processing apparatus according to claim 7, wherein said image display section arranges and displays a plurality of medical images, and

said image display section applies a common area of interest as that of the area of interest designated by said interested area designating section with respect to one medical image among the plurality of medical images displayed in the image display section to the plurality of medical images, and in each of the medical images lowers a luminance of a common area, excluding the common area of interest to display the plurality of medical images.

11. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The image processing apparatus according to

claim 6, further comprising:

a scanning processing designating section to designate, in response to an operation, a scanning processing to set an area of interest on the medical image displayed in said image display section and to move the area of interest in a predetermined direction ,

wherein said image display section displays, in accordance with the scanning processing by said scanning processing designating section, the medical image in which the area of interest successively moves, and a luminance of an area, excluding the area of interest, is lowered .

12. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The image processing apparatus according to claim 11, further comprising:

a part recognizing section to recognize positions of a plurality of parts appearing in the medical image,

wherein said image processing section subjects the area of interest, which is successively moved, to the image processing in accordance with a respective one of the plurality of parts appearing in the area of interest, which is successively moved, and being among the plurality of parts having positions thereof which are recognized by said part recognizing section.

13. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The image processing apparatus according to claim 11, wherein said image display section arranges and displays, in accordance with the scanning processing by said scanning processing designating section, a plurality of medical images each having a common area of interest, which is common between the plurality of medical images, the common areas being set at corresponding positions and with corresponding timings and synchronously moved at corresponding speeds.

14. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The image processing apparatus according to claim 2, wherein said data obtaining section obtains a radiation image as said medical image.

15. (currently amended) An image processing method to subject a medical image to an image processing by using a photography device, comprising:

obtaining the medical image₇;

~~a type of identifying the photography device₇ and a photography condition when conditions used to obtain the medical image is obtained;~~

~~storing an image processing condition subjecting the medical image to the image processing in accordance with the type of the conditions corresponding respectively to~~

various photography devices and ~~the photography condition when the medical image is obtained~~conditions; and

subjecting the obtained medical image to ~~the image processing in accordance with the image processing condition corresponding to the same type of the photography device and the same photography condition as the obtained type of the photography device and the obtained photography condition~~conditions used to obtain the medical image.

16. (currently amended) An image processing program storage medium in ~~which~~storing an image processing program to operate a computer system ~~as an image processing apparatus to subject a medical image to an image processing, by which medical image was obtained~~ using a photography device ~~is stored~~, wherein said image processing program comprises:

a data obtaining section ~~obtaining to obtain~~ the medical image, and ~~a type of~~identify the photography device and ~~a photography condition when~~conditions used to obtain the medical image ~~is obtained~~; and

a condition storing section to store image processing conditions corresponding respectively to various photography devices and photography conditions; and

an image processing section ~~subjecting to subject~~ the medical image ~~obtained by said data obtaining section to the image processing in accordance with an image processing condition for~~corresponding to the same type of the photography device and the same photography condition as the type of the photography device and the photography condition obtained by the data obtaining sectionconditions used to obtain the medical image.

17-19 CANCELLED